

CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT

1939 HEALTH REPORT

GENERAL STATISTICS

Registrar General's Estimates -

(a) Resident Population (Census 1931)	12,927.
(b) Resident Population (Mid-year 1939)	13,270.
(c) Average Population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	15,740.
Area (acres)	41,315.
Rateable Value	£75,624.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£298.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Books	3,914.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		Total.	Male.	Female.
Live Births	(Legitimate	153.	71.	82.
	(Illegitimate	7.	6.	1.
		<u>160.</u>	<u>77.</u>	<u>83.</u>

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid 1939.... 12.05.

		Total.	Male.	Female.
Still-births	(Legitimate	6.	3.	3.
	(Illegitimate	1.	1.	-
		<u>7.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>3.</u>

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births..... 42. 0.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths	192.	95.	97.

Death-rate per 1,000 estimated average population..... 12. 2.

Deaths from puerperal causes..... Nil.

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births.....	55. 9.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	38. 9.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births....	428. 6.
The total number of infant deaths was.....	9.
Deaths from cancer (all ages).....	26.
" " measles (all ages).....	Nil.
" " whooping cough (all ages).....	2.
" " diarrhoea (under two years of age).....	Nil.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES

Mr. Douglas Murton-Neale, Secretary of the Cranbrook District Water Company, reports as follows:-

"Regarding the works carried out by this Company during the year 1939, it was found urgently necessary to scrape and re-line the main between the Hartley Reservoir and Highgate, Hawkhurst. The work was actually in progress when War was declared, and although work was not permitted to be continued during the night-time, the Contractor so arranged that the operation was completed with as little inconvenience to Consumers in the Hawkhurst area as possible. The operation has been successful in restoring the water pressure in the Hawkhurst area. The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Galbraith, personally inspected the process of scraping the mains and was satisfied that the Company and Contractor were taking all possible precautions.

The influx of Evacuees and others into the Company's area of supply at the outbreak of War, coupled with the usual number of hoppers in the area at the same time, made a very heavy call on the Company's resources and it was only with difficulty that the supply could be maintained throughout the 24 hours each day, but the Consumers were asked to restrict the consumption of water as much as possible and they did so with so much effect that it was not found necessary to curtail the supply at any time. The matter was promptly reported in writing to Sir Arthur MacNalty, Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, by Dr. Nicol Galbraith, the Medical Officer of Health, and the position was carefully watched by the Water Engineer Inspector of the Ministry of Health."

The numerous analyses reported upon by the Counties Public Health Laboratories showed the water to be of a highly satisfactory bacterial purity.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE

Only one extension of 425 feet of sewer at Hartley, Cranbrook, was made during the year in order to serve new Council Houses.

REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL

The whole of the Cranbrook area is regularly scavenged with the exception of the Parishes of Benenden and Frittenden. Owing to the War, it is unlikely that the collection will be extended to these Parishes.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notifiable Diseases during the Year

	Total Cases Notified.	Cases ad- mitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	19.	16.	-
Diphtheria.	24.	24.	-
Pneumonia.	17.	1.	7.
Erysipelas.	5.	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis.	2.	2.	-
Whooping Cough.	34.	-	-
	101.	43.	7.

SCARLET FEVER

A total of 19 notifications were received from medical practitioners during the year compared with 6 for the preceding year. The cases occurred in the various Parishes as follows:- Hawkhurst 7, Cranbrook 5, Goudhurst 3, Sandhurst 3, Benenden 1. The age-periods of the cases were:-

$\frac{4-5}{2}$	$\frac{5-10}{5}$	$\frac{10-15}{3}$	$\frac{15-20}{6}$	$\frac{20-30}{1}$	$\frac{30-40}{1}$	$\frac{50 \text{ \& over}}{1}$	=	19.
-----------------	------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	--------------------------------	---	-----

Sixteen of the cases were isolated at the Cranbrook Joint Hospital, 1 at the Cranbrook School Sanatorium and 1 at the Bedgebury Park School, Goudhurst, in a separate ward of the Sanatorium; one case which occurred at a Ladies' College was transferred by the child's parents to its home at Penshurst.

DIPHTHERIA

Twenty-four notifications of this disease were received, an increase of 15 compared with 9 cases in 1938. They were scattered

throughout the various Parishes and included an outbreak numbering 15 cases which occurred in Cranbrook and Sissinghurst. The Parishes involved were:- Cranbrook 17, Sissinghurst 3, Frittenden 1 and Goudhurst 1. The age-periods were as under:-

<u>0-1</u>	<u>1-3</u>	<u>3-5</u>	<u>5-10</u>	<u>10-15</u>	<u>15-20</u>	<u>25-30</u>	<u>35-40</u>	<u>75 yrs</u>	24.
1	1	1	11	5	2	1	1	1	

The Cranbrook and Sissinghurst outbreak occurred amongst evacuees and local children attending the same schools. The Kent County Medical Officer arranged for his staff to undertake swabbing of the scholars and teachers; nearly 1,000 swabs were taken and 30 "carriers" or "bacteriological" cases were found, most of which were treated in the various sick bays; of 4 home treated cases 1 was of a teacher. The majority of the cases obtained their milk from the same dairyman and at the request of your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Galbraith, a Kent County Veterinary Officer, Mr. Stewart, made an inspection of all the cattle in the dairy herds. Swabs taken of all persons concerned in the handling of milk proved negative. As Medical Officer of Health, I was favourably impressed with the kitchen cleanliness observed in the dairy farms we inspected in this important business of milk production. We were accompanied on our round of inspection by the Council's Inspector and Surveyor, Mr. Watts.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS (Infantile Paralysis).

Two cases of this disease were reported from Benenden, one in a child aged 9 years who was admitted to the Tunbridge Wells General Hospital, and subsequently developed scarlet fever, and the other in an adult female who lived next door to the above patient and had probably been in contact. She was admitted to the Cranbrook Isolation Hospital. The diagnosis of the case was confirmed by the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Nicol Galbraith, in consultation with Dr. Isabel Gough.

PNEUMONIA

An outbreak of pneumonia occurred at the Babies' Castle, Hawkhurst,

8 cases being notified of infants up to 2 years, all with two exceptions being of the influenzal type, 3 of the patients died and a fourth death occurred of a baby from pneumonia who had not been notified. They were all treated at the Babies' Castle.

Eight cases occurred in adults, two of which proved fatal and one in an infant; one case was treated at the County Hospital, Pembury.

ERYSIPELAS

Five cases occurred in adults who were treated at home.

WHOOPING COUGH

Medical Practitioners notified a total of 34 cases of whooping cough between the ages 1 to 13 years which were treated at home.

MINOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Head Teachers notified a total of 132 actual or suspected cases during the year as follows:- chickenpox 68, whooping cough 36, impetigo 19, "pink-eye" 4, rubella 3, ringworm 1 and scabies 1.

TUBERCULOSIS

A total of 9 new cases were notified; 4 deaths were registered.

AGE-PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
5	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
25	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
35	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 & up.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3	2	3	1	1	3	-	-
	5		4		4		-	

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR FOR 1939

Total number of Inspections made during the year.....	2,604.
Re Overcrowding: Number investigated.....	2.
Re Sanitary Accommodation: (i) Insufficient..... 6.)	50.
(ii) Defective..... 44.)	
Re Drainage: (i) Reconstructed..... 21.)	69.
(ii) Repaired..... 21.)	
(iii) Cleansed..... 27.)	
Re Cesspools: (i) Abolished.....	5.
(ii) Repaired.....	19.
Re Refuse Receptacles.....	126.
Re Tents, Vans and Sheds.....	3.
Re Housing: Yard Paving..... 12.)	113.
Dampness..... 14.)	
Roof and Rainwater Pipes..... 17.)	
Floors..... 20.)	
Walls and Ceilings..... 25.)	
Windows and Ventilation..... 23.)	
Baths, Lavatory Basins and Sinks..... 2.)	
Re Water Supplies.....	23.
Re Hop-pickers' Camps.....	22.
Miscellaneous.....	15.
Number of statutory notices served under Public Health or Housing Acts.....	19.
Number of informal notices given for sanitary and housing defects.....	137.
Approximate number of separate premises in area.....	4136.
Approximate number of such premises at the end of the year, containing each type of sanitary convenience as under:-	
W. C.'s into drainage system.....	1450.
W. C.'s into cesspools.....	2015.
Earth closets or privy middens.....	154.
Pail closets.....	517.
Number of houses disinfected.....	73.
Batches of clothing disinfected.....	4.
Approximate amount of food condemned during the year, 1 ton 2 cwts. 1 qr. and 10 lbs. (Including 31 carcasses - or part carcasses - condemned on account of tuberculosis).	

FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS, ETC.

	No. in District.	Visits.	Defects	
			Found.	Remedied.
Bakehouses	14	9	1	1
Slaughterhouses, registered)	12	603	1	1
Slaughterhouses, licensed)				
Other food preparing places	20	23	3	3
Factories and Workshops	78	15	1	1
(Factory Register being revised in accordance with new legislation)				

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

- (a) Milk Supply. - Routine inspections have been made and samples of milk have been collected as required by the County Council.

In one instance an "Accredited" supplier supplied accommodation milk produced at another farm, and adverse samples were taken.

- (b) Meat and Other Foods. - Routine inspections are made under the Meat Regulations to all slaughterhouses and meat shops.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE

- (i) Hawkhurst Sewerage Scheme was completed, but the work was held in abeyance owing to the War.
- (ii) A direct labour cesspool emptying scheme was adopted in Cranbrook Parish.
- (iii) To check pollution of Rivers and Streams, samples of the effluent were taken at the various Sewage Works in the District.

HOUSE REFUSE

A direct labour refuse collection was adopted during the year in Cranbrook Parish.

HOP-PICKERS - INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Fewer hop-pickers came into the District than in former years. Only two cases of Diphtheria were reported among them.

HOUSING

Adoptive Acts - Bye-Laws and Regulations:

The Building Bye-Laws for the Cranbrook Rural District were revised.

Observations on the general question of Housing, and in particular, upon War conditions and their effect on Housing:

There is no cause for complaint.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

On the resignation of Mr. F. W. Smith, Mr. G. Longley was appointed Additional Sanitary Inspector.
